



H.RES. 943 – REMEMBERING THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER DISASTER AND HONORING ITS CREW MEMBERS, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON JANUARY 28, 1986

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 943 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Tom Feeney (R-FL) on January 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology on January 28, 2008, but was never considered.

H.Res. 943 is expected to be considered on the House floor on February 6, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 943 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the 22nd anniversary of the space shuttle Challenger disaster;
- Celebrates the courage and bravery of the crew of the Challenger, and Christa McAuliffe and her passion for encouraging America's children to pursue careers in science and mathematics;
- Commits itself and the Nation to using the lessons learned in inquiries into the space shuttle Challenger accident to ensure that the space agency always operates on a strong and stable foundation; and
- Recognizes the continued dedication of the United States to the goal of space exploration for the benefit of all mankind.

BACKGROUND

The space shuttle Challenger, Mission 51-L, disintegrated 73 seconds into its flight after an O-ring seal in its right solid rocket booster failed at lift-off on January 28, 1986. All seven members of the crew lost their lives, including Commander Francis R. Scobee, Pilot Michael J. Smith, Mission Specialist Judith A. Resnik, Mission Specialist Ellison S. Onizuka, Mission Specialist Ronald E. McNair, Payload Specialist Gregory B. Jarvis, and Payload Specialist Sharon Christa McAuliffe.

Christina McCauliffe was a school teacher from Concord, New Hampshire. Mrs. McCauliffe was chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from a field of 11,000 applicants to the Teacher in Space Project, where a teacher would teach lessons from outer space.

The House Committee on Science and Technology conducted an oversight hearing and released a report on the causes of the accident on October 29, 1986.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.